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FM USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0410
INFO RUCNWSN/THE WASSENAAR ARRANGEMENT
RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RUEKJCS/DOD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L UNVIE VIENNA 000559

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR ISN/CATR, T, PM/DTC, PM/RSAT
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/13/2019

TAGS: ETTC KSTC PARM

SUBJECT: WASSENAAR ARRANGEMENT: REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE ON
PLENARY DECISION ON EXTENSION FOR HEAD OF SECRETARIAT

REF: UNVIE 522 - REPORT OF NOVEMBER WA GWG MEETING

Classified By: Ambassador Glyn T. Davies, Reason 1.4 (d).

¶1. (U) Request for guidance from the December 2-3, 2009
Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) Plenary decision on the Head of
Secretariat. A detailed reporting cable on the Plenary will
follow. Guidance request para 7.

¶2. (SBU) The 2009 WA Plenary ended with a consensus decision
extending the term of current Head of Secretariat, Ambassador
Sune Danielsson (Sweden), to June 1, 2012, subject to a
silence procedure ending February 15, 2010.

¶3. (C) The WA anticipated a difficult discussion on the
extension of the Head of Secretariat since Russian behavior
during the November 2009 General Working meeting (reftel para
23) had been problematic at best. At the Plenary, Russian
Head of Delegation Grigory Mashkov withheld consensus on the
Head of Secretariat extension until the Russian proposal for
a silence procedure was agreed. He took the unusual course
of insisting on Ambassador Danielsson's presence in the
meeting room during the initial discussion of this item. He
first praised Danielsson's tenure, but then asserted he only
had the authority from Moscow to "agree on a consensus
solution" which he would then take back to his authorities.
Moscow, he maintained, would need until at least mid February
to study the Plenary's consensus option. An Assessment Year
is scheduled for 2011 and Mashkov voiced concern about a
change in the head of secretariat during this year.

¶4. (SBU) Discussion on the Head of Secretariat issue focused
on the duration of extension for Ambassador Danielsson. The
Swedes made it clear that their government would make
Danielsson available for as long as he may care to serve. The
British voiced concerns that it was difficult to get a
commitment from candidates for a head of secretariat
successor until a definite start date was determined; they
favored a two year extension for Danielsson. Consensus
formed around a two year extension to allow for continuation
during the Assessment Year.

¶5. (C) Upon reconvening after a break, Ambassador Danielsson
was no longer present. The Plenary Chair, Ambassador Barrett
(CA), reported on his consultations. Mashkov made it clear
that Russia would not join in consensus for any prolongation
of Danielsson's term unless it was subject to their proposed
silence procedure. Claiming confusion that Danielsson was
trying to force the Plenary into a decision, Mashkov saw it
"a sign of disrespect" to the WA that Danielsson had made it
known that he preferred a definite answer from the Plenary
whether he was to be extended. Barrett offered to speak with
Danielsson and assured the delegations that no sign of

disrespect was intended and asked for consideration of Danielsson's "circumstances." (Note: Danielsson will rely chiefly on his own resources, due to the small size of the secretariat staff, to arrange the moving of his household effects at the end of his contract. End note.)

¶6. (SBU) When Plenary reconvened, Ambassador Barrett reported with some relief that Ambassador Danielsson had accepted the Plenary consensus decision of a 2 year extension subject to a silence procedure ending February 15, 2010. The Russian delegation objected to the wording implying a decision to extend had been made at Plenary. They ultimately agreed to consensus language that included a preface indicating the two-year extension for Ambassador Danielsson was "subject to approval by silence procedure expiring 15 February 2010".

¶7. (SBU) Post supports Danielsson's extension and requests guidance before February 15, 2010, on the silence procedure on the two year extension (until June 1, 2012) for Ambassador Danielsson as WA Head of Secretariat.

DAVIES